information has been called for. The Commission has not finalised its findings.

Damage due to natural calamities in H.P. and Uttaranchal

†2432. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of the recent damage to life and property due to calamities like landslide, sliding of rocks, floods in rivers and lightening in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(b) the details of measures that have been taken by Government to check the recurrence of these calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) Government of Himachal Pradesh have reported loss of 58 lives due to cloudburst/flashfloods in the districts of Sirmour, Kullu-Manali and Kangra. Twenty people lost their lives, 499 houses were damaged and 300 cattle perished due to heavy rains/ landslides in the districts of Almorha, Pithoragarh, Nainital, Tehri, Pouri, Haridwar, Dehradun and Rudraprayag in Uttaranchal.

(b) It is not possible to check natural hazards. However, the impact of these hazards can be reduced by taking appropriate preparedness and mitigation measures. The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken various initiatives for strengthening the disaster management mechanism in the country. These include capacity building in emergency response; drawing up mitigation projects for earthquakes, cyclones and other disasters; and a project for strengthening of fire services; making disaster response training an integral part of training of the Central Para Military Forces; building disaster awareness in the curriculum for schools; steps have been taken to make disaster mitigation technologies an integral part of engineering curricula; induction/in-service training to officers of All India Services and to other Government functionaries down to the level of village in disaster management; mitigation measures in the planning and development process, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.